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**November 19, 1970**

**MEMORANDUM FOR**

**THE HONORABLE RICHARD HELMS  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**

**SUBJECT: Request for Assessment**

**Per our conversation, could you give us an assessment on  
what the Soviets might be up to.**

**Alexander M. Haig, Jr.  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs**

**Attachment**

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS  
APPLY

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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November 16, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: Al Haig *(initials)*

SUBJECT: Telephone Call from Mr. Hament

I received a telephone call this morning from Mr. Hament in which he discussed:

- (a) A recent contact made to him through Soviet U. N. Ambassador Malek in New York and,
- (b) Some observations on his three-week trip to the Soviet Union.

Hament stated that the Soviets had contacted him on an urgent basis in New York to inquire whether or not the Ford Truck contract with the Soviet Union was turned down by either Ford himself, Secretary Laird or higher authority. Arbatov was apparently in the meeting during which the issue was discussed with Hament. The Soviets stated that this was an extremely important issue to them since they were most anxious for Ford to accept their offer to build a factory. They made the point that they are now negotiating with an FRG firm but would far prefer to do business with the U.S. The Soviets, according to Hament are urgently awaiting some response through him as to whether or not there is any hope for renegotiating with Ford and, further, they are trying to pinpoint who is responsible for the negative U.S. decision.

Hament then proceeded to describe what he termed his remarkable treatment over a three-week period in the Soviet Union during which he visited Tashkent, Leningrad and Moscow. Apparently, he was wined and dined in a most exceptional manner, with all expenses picked up by the Soviet Government. The night Pompidou visited Moscow and attended the opera, Hament was included in Podgorny's official party.

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Hament was especially impressed about an incident that occurred on his flight from Tashkent to Moscow, during which weather closed in and after several aborted attempts to get into Moscow, his flight was diverted to Chelyabinsk which according to Hament is a closed city of over a million population dedicated to the production of Soviet rockets. He apparently spent a day and a half at this location and although he picked up nothing of significance, he maintains it was the first time that any visitor has ever been permitted in the city. He stated Dobrynin mentioned to him that he, Dobrynin, had never been permitted to go there.

Hament also reported that he was able to obtain approval of every commercial contract he hoped to get to include also five-year exclusive rights for all TV films, etc., in the educational area. He also arranged for the purchase of \$100 million per year of silver for Kodak.

Hament has given the gist of this information to a Mr. Smith of CIA, who asked him to call it directly to you.

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